

**Introduction:** It is important for persuasive writing to have a lead sentence or hook to grab the reader’s attention.

1. Begin with a lead/ attention grabber/ opening: \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples:**

- 1) **A Thought Provoking Question** – (*Do you believe that criminals truly have the ability to reform themselves?*)
- 2) **Quote-** (*“Mr. Ralph Spender, the phoenix that arose from Jimmy Valentine’s ashes-ashes left by the flame of a sudden and alterative attack of love- remained in Elmore, and prospered.”*)
- 3) **Unusual Detail** – (*O. Henry, the author of “A Retrieved Reformation” is comparable to the main character of the story, Jimmy Valentine, because they both went to prison, they both have knowledge about banks, and they both changed their names.*)
- 4) **Statistic/Fact-** (*A surprise ending is an unexpected twist to the end of a story that you did not predict.*)
- 5) **Problem-** (*Many people make mistakes in life but don’t think they can reform and erase the past.*)

2. Write a few sentences (at least 2) briefly introducing what the book was about, or what readers can take from it. *Try to incorporate the words you’re using for your “reasons” in your body paragraph.*

\_\_\_\_\_ . . .  
Title of the book

- a. taught me \_\_\_\_\_
- b. was about \_\_\_\_\_
- c. can help \_\_\_\_\_
- d. didn’t \_\_\_\_\_
- e. wasn’t \_\_\_\_\_

3. Introduce your book’s title and state your purpose/thesis:

- a. I recommend (\_\_\_\_\_) written by (\_\_\_\_\_) because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the book                      Reason #2                      Author
- Reason #1

**OR**

- b. I do not recommend (\_\_\_\_\_) written by (\_\_\_\_\_) because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the book                      Author                      Reason #1
- Reason #2

**Common Transition Words:**

- |                       |                         |                            |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • First, . . .        | • Additionally, . . .   | • Therefore, . . .         |
| • Furthermore, . . .  | • Next, . . .           | • On the other hand, . . . |
| • Another, . . .      | • In addition to, . . . | • However, . . .           |
| • Besides, . . .      | • Instead of, . . .     | • Finally, . . .           |
| • Although, . . .     | • Rather than, . . .    |                            |
| • Consequently, . . . | • Similarly, . . .      |                            |

**Body Paragraph:**

Transition statement/phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason #1: *The story was* \_\_\_\_\_.

One example to show the story was \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

Another/A second example to show the story was \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

Transition statement/phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason #2: *The story was (also)* \_\_\_\_\_.

One example to show the story was \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

Another/A second example to show the story was \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:**

1. Begin with a concluding phrase:

- a. In conclusion, ...
- b. As you can see, ...
- c. To summarize, ...
- d. It is clear that, ...
- e. Obviously, ...
- f. For these reasons, ...
- g. As I said, ...
- h. Clearly, ...

2. Restate your purpose/thesis and summarize your reasons:

- a. I recommend (\_\_\_\_\_) written by (\_\_\_\_\_) because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and

**OR**

- b. I do not recommend (\_\_\_\_\_) written by (\_\_\_\_\_) because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and

4. “Wrap-up” with a lasting impression (a message you want to leave your readers with).

Examples:

- a. **Write a personal comment or call for action.**
- b. **Your prediction**
- c. **A question that will let the readers make their own predictions**
- d. **Your recommendations to solve a problem**
- e. **A quotation**